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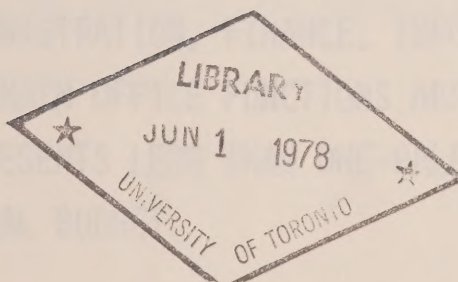
*Ontario Ministry of Colleges
and Universities
News release*

NOTES FOR
AN ADDRESS BY


THE HONOURABLE HARRY C. PARROTT, DDS
MINISTER OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MAY 23 1978



ON THE OCCASION OF THE PRESENTATION
OF HIS MINISTRY'S ESTIMATES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1978-79



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MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE,

THE BUDGET THAT I AM PRESENTING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AMOUNTS TO ABOUT \$1.37 BILLION, MUCH OF IT TRANSFER PAYMENTS TO POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE, INFORMATION SERVICES AND OTHER MAIN OFFICE FUNCTIONS ABSORB \$5.9 MILLION, WHICH REPRESENTS LESS THAN ONE-HALF OF ONE PER CENT OF THE TOTAL BUDGET.

MINISTRY SALARY AND ADMINISTRATION BUDGETS GENERALLY HAVE RISEN FAR LESS THAN THE RATE OF INFLATION.

ONTARIO'S APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM IS GROWING STEADILY, BUT IT STILL CANNOT MEET OUR NEEDS. IN 1972, THERE WERE 18,000 ACTIVE APPRENTICES IN THE PROGRAM; THERE ARE NOW ABOUT 30,000. APPRENTICESHIP IS CERTAINLY THRIVING IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, AND IN THE FIELD OF MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT, IN THE SERVICE TRADES; BUT IT IS WEAK IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR. SPECIAL EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO CATCH UP IN THIS AND OTHER SEGMENTS OF THE LABOUR MARKET.

AS MANY OF YOU ARE PROBABLY AWARE, I WILL BE ANNOUNCING IN JUNE SOME INNOVATIONS IN THE AREA OF SKILL TRAINING. RATHER THAN ANSWER MEMBERS' QUESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT BY REFERRING TO AN IMPENDING ANNOUNCEMENT, I AM WILLING, IF MEMBERS SO WISH, TO ASK THE CHAIRMAN TO SET ASIDE A PORTION OF OUR AVAILABLE TIME SO THAT WE CAN DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF APPRENTICESHIP AT A TIME WHEN THE NEW INITIATIVES ARE KNOWN.

I AM REMINDED THAT THIS YEAR IS THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF REGULATED APPRENTICESHIP IN ONTARIO; WE'VE COME A LONG WAY, BUT WE'VE A LONG WAY STILL TO GO. IMMIGRATION OF SKILLED LABOUR TO CANADA IS DECREASING RAPIDLY; NO LONGER CAN WE HOPE TO SKIM THE SKILLS FROM THE LABOUR MARKETS OF WESTERN EUROPE. MY FEAR IS THAT THE SHORTAGE OF SKILLED WORKERS MAY HAMPER ONTARIO'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY. THAT'S ONE REASON WHY WE'VE BEEN PUTTING SO MUCH EMPHASIS LATELY ON APPRENTICESHIP AS A WORTHWHILE ALTERNATIVE TO COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY TRAINING.

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE UNIVERSITIES, BY FAR THE LARGEST CATEGORY IN THE BUDGET, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW THAT I HAVE ACCEPTED THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS TO LIFT THE THREE-YEAR FREEZE ON FUNDING OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS. IN THE FALL OF THIS YEAR THE MINISTRY WILL INTRODUCE A SYSTEM OF FIVE-YEAR PLANNING THAT WILL REDUCE REDUNDANCY AND FOSTER PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS.

ALSO IN THE FALL, STUDENTS WILL BENEFIT FROM AN EXPANDED, MORE FLEXIBLE ONTARIO STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF PROVINCIAL GRANTS AND BURSARIES, AND LOANS BACKED BY BOTH PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS. THE BUDGET FOR ONTARIO'S SHARE OF OSAP, INCLUDING LOAN INTEREST BUT NOT PRINCIPAL, IS \$77.7 MILLION.

THE NEW OSAP NO LONGER OBLIGES STUDENTS TO TAKE ON LOAN DEBT BEFORE APPLYING FOR GRANT. CERTAIN STUDENTS WHO WOULD HAVE QUALIFIED FOR GRANT ASSISTANCE UNDER THE OLD RULES WILL BE EXCLUDED THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF THE NEW EIGHT-SEMESTER TIME LIMITS THAT APPLY TO THE GRANT PORTION OF OSAP. STUDENTS WHO DON'T QUALIFY FOR GRANT UNDER THE NEW PROGRAM CAN APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN A LOAN REMISSION SCHEME WHICH WILL BE IN EFFECT THIS YEAR AND NEXT. UNDER THE SCHEME, THE PROVINCE WILL PAY OFF A PORTION OF A STUDENT'S CANADA STUDENT LOAN DEBT OVER \$1,000. ONTARIO HAS ALLOCATED \$15 MILLION TO THIS SCHEME. I WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME YOUR SUGGESTIONS ABOUT WAYS IN WHICH THESE FUNDS COULD BE USED TO ENRICH OTHER ASPECTS OF STUDENT ASSISTANCE WHEN THE REMISSION SCHEME ENDS IN TWO YEARS.

THIS YEAR, A TOTAL OF \$745 MILLION HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FOR THE OPERATION OF ONTARIO'S 15 UNIVERSITIES, RYERSON POLYTECHNICAL INSTITUTE AND THE ONTARIO COLLEGE OF ART. THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 5.8 PER CENT. THE OPERATING FUNDS FOR THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM ARE NEARLY 62 PER CENT OF THE MINISTRY'S TOTAL BUDGET.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, CAPITAL PROJECTS WILL BE FUNDED BY A DIRECT GRANT RATHER THAN BY DEBENTURE FUNDING THROUGH THE ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES CAPITAL AID CORPORATION. THE 1978-79 CAPITAL BUDGET IS \$13,455 MILLION FOR THE UNIVERSITIES AND \$13,145 FOR THE COLLEGES.

OVER \$271 MILLION IS TO BE PROVIDED FOR THE OPERATION OF THE PROVINCE'S SYSTEM OF 22 COMMUNITY COLLEGES. THIS FIGURE IS UP ABOUT 5.5 PER CENT FROM LAST YEAR. AT LEAST \$80 MILLION, AND POSSIBLY AS MUCH AS \$94 MILLION, WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR APPRENTICESHIP AND ADULT EDUCATION . . . AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, THE IN-SCHOOL PORTION OF APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING IS USUALLY PROVIDED BY THE COLLEGES. IN THE COLLEGES THERE ARE ALSO NEARLY 17,000 ADULTS TAKING MANPOWER TRAINING COURSES AND A FURTHER 2,000 STUDYING PART-TIME AND THERE ARE CURRENTLY ABOUT 3,400 APPRENTICES TAKING THE IN-SCHOOL PORTION OF THEIR PROGRAM AT A COLLEGE. A FURTHER 3,600 STUDENTS ARE STUDYING IN THE COLLEGES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE TRAINING IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY PROGRAM. FULL-TIME POST-SECONDARY ENROLMENT IN THE COLLEGES IS ABOUT 61,000. PART-TIME ENROLMENT IS ABOUT 60,000. THE PART-TIME FIGURES I'VE USED REPRESENT COURSE REGISTRATIONS NOT HEAD COUNTS.

THE FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR COLLEGES AND ADULT EDUCATION SUPPORT ALSO COVER THE REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION OF PRIVATE VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS AND THE OPERATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOLS TRAINING REGISTERED NURSING ASSISTANTS.

ALTHOUGH COLLEGE ENROLMENT CONTINUES TO GROW AT A MODERATE PACE THERE IS A SLIGHT DECLINE IN UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT. THE MINISTRY'S DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS ENSURES EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF UNIVERSITIES WHICH ARE IN THE PROCESS OF ADJUSTING TO SMALLER ENROLMENT. FULL-TIME UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENT FOR 1977-78 IS 144,000 AND PART-TIME UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENT IS SLIGHTLY IN EXCESS OF 60,000 STUDENTS. FULL-TIME GRADUATE ENROLMENT IS NEARLY 15,000 AND A FURTHER 11,600 STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED IN PART-TIME GRADUATE STUDIES.

THE ONTARIO CAREER ACTION PROGRAM, NOW IN ITS THIRD SUCCESSFUL YEAR, WILL BE FUNDED UP TO \$9.3 MILLION AND WILL PROVIDE MORE THAN 5,000 TRAINING POSITIONS IN INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT FOR ONTARIO'S UNEMPLOYED YOUTH; LATER IN THE YEAR WE WILL DECIDE IF A FURTHER EXPANSION OF THE PROGRAM IS WARRANTED. OCAP'S TRACK RECORD IS GOOD; ABOUT 75 PER CENT OF THE TRAINEES FIND JOBS. OCAP IS GOOD FOR EMPLOYERS, TOO: OF THE TRAINEES WHO FIND JOBS, 80 PER CENT FIND THEM WITH THE COMPANIES WITH WHICH THEY WERE TRAINING. OCAP ENABLES EMPLOYERS, AT LITTLE RISK TO THEMSELVES, TO HIRE INEXPERIENCED YOUTH AND TRAIN THEM, NOT ACCORDING TO TEXTBOOK THEORY, BUT ACCORDING TO HARD-NOSED BUSINESS PRACTICE.

BEFORE CLOSING, I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION ONE MORE AREA OF MY MINISTRY'S OPERATION, AND THAT'S THE CRITICAL INTERFACE BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.

IN 1975, THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION, AND COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, BEGAN A JOINT REVIEW IN ORDER TO IMPROVE COORDINATION BETWEEN SECONDARY AND POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION. THE REVIEW WAS COMPLETED LAST YEAR AND A WORKING PAPER HAS NOW BEEN PREPARED OUTLINING POLICY PROPOSALS RELATING TO COORDINATION BETWEEN SECONDARY AND POST-SECONDARY LEVELS ON MATTERS CONCERNING CURRICULUM, STANDARDS AND METHODS OF EVALUATION, VARIABILITY IN MARKING AND TESTING, AND THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE SECONDARY SCHOOL HONOUR GRADUATION YEAR AND UNIVERSITY ADMISSION POLICIES.

THE WORKING PAPER SUGGESTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBJECT COUNCILS FOR ARTS, BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY, ENGLISH, FRENCH (AS A PRIMARY LANGUAGE), MATHEMATICS, MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES. THE COUNCILS WOULD REVIEW CURRICULA IN THE FINAL YEARS OF SECONDARY SCHOOL AND THE EARLY YEARS OF UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE.

WE BELIEVE THAT LINKAGES SUCH AS THE PROPOSED SUBJECT COUNCILS - WHICH LINK PEOPLE IN THE FRONT LINE DELIVERY OF EDUCATION RATHER THAN BUREAUCRATS - ARE THE BEST WAY OF ENSURING BETTER CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE SECONDARY AND POST-SECONDARY SYSTEMS.

THE PAPER SUGGESTS INTRODUCING STANDARD GRADE 13 ACHIEVEMENT TESTING IN MATHEMATICS AND ENGLISH OR FRENCH, DEPENDING ON A STUDENT'S FIRST LANGUAGE. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE TESTS WOULD BE TO GIVE UNIVERSITIES MORE GUIDANCE IN ADMITTING STUDENTS TO LIMITED-ENROLMENT PROGRAMS AND TO HELP STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS SELECT APPROPRIATE COURSES IN FIRST-YEAR UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE PROGRAMS. FUNDS WOULD BE PROVIDED TO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PLACEMENT AND DIAGNOSTIC TESTING. MARKING GRADES WOULD BE STANDARDIZED FOR COURSES IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

BY MID JUNE WE WILL HAVE RECEIVED RESPONSES TO THE WORKING PAPER FROM UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE AND SECONDARY-SCHOOL SECTORS. WE WILL THEN WORK CLOSELY WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TO FORMULATE SPECIFIC PLANS WHICH WILL ENABLE US TO STRENGTHEN COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION AMONG THESE INSTITUTIONS. THIS IN TURN WILL BETTER ENABLE THE TWO MINISTRIES TO CARRY OUT THEIR SEPARATE MANDATES.

BEFORE LAUNCHING INTO A VOTE-BY-VOTE DISCUSSION OF MY MINISTRY'S ESTIMATES, I THOUGHT THAT THIS BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PAST AND PRESENT ACTIVITY WOULD HELP ESTABLISH A SUITABLE CONTEXT FOR SOME OF THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURES THAT WE'LL BE EXAMINING. AND, LET'S RESERVE A COUPLE OF HOURS TO DISCUSS THE MINISTRY'S NEW SKILL TRAINING INITIATIVES AT A LATER DATE . . . I THINK THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO US ALL.